

Date

Jack Skaggs
c/o The Coordinating and Development Corporation
4000 Viking Drive
Suite A-1
Bossier City, Louisiana 70821

Re: Ethics Board Docket No. 2021-481

Dear Mr. Skaggs:

The Louisiana Board of Ethics, at its August 6, 2021 meeting, considered your request for an advisory opinion as to whether The Coordinating and Development Corporation, a non-profit of which you are the President and Chief Executive Officer may apply for a grant on behalf of Bossier Parish.

FACTS PROVIDED

You are a former Bossier Parish Police Juror, having stepped down from such role effective June 13, 2021. You are also the President and Chief Executive Officer of The Coordinating and Development Corporation ("CDC"), a non-profit corporation. CDC is the state-appointed Planning and Development District for 10 parishes in Northwest Louisiana, including Bossier. You will not be directly involved in the grant application process, and did not participate in such matters while serving as police juror.

CDC would like to apply for a federal grant on behalf of Bossier Parish, for which CDC may be paid an administrative fee by Bossier Parish. You will not be directly involved in the grant application process and did not participate in such matters while serving as police juror.

LAWS

La. R.S. 42:1121A(1) provides no former agency head or elected official shall, for a period of two years following the termination of his public service as the head of such agency or as an elected public official serving in such agency, assist another person, for compensation, in a transaction, or in an appearance in connection with a transaction, involving that former agency or render any service on a contractual basis to or for such agency.

ANALYSIS

In general, under La. R.S. 42:1121A(1), you would be prohibited from receiving a thing of economic value for assisting CDC in any transaction or in any appearance in connection with a transaction involving your former agency, Bossier Parish. Since you are not assisting CDC with the grant

application nor any delivery of services resulting from the grant application or award of the grant, you will not receive any thing of economic value, either directly or indirectly, from this transaction, so no conflict is presented.

CONCLUSION

The Board concluded, and instructed me to inform you, that the Code of Governmental Ethics would not prohibit CDC from transacting with the Parish of Bossier. The Board cautions that any assistance or participation by you, for compensation, in a transaction between CDC and the Bossier Parish Police Jury, would be a violation of La. R.S. 42:1121A(1).

This advisory opinion is based solely on the facts as set forth herein. Changes to the facts as presented may result in a different application of the provisions of the Code of Ethics. The Board issues no opinion as to past conduct or as to laws other than the Code of Governmental Ethics. If you have any questions, please contact me at (800) 842-6630 or (225) 219-5600.

Sincerely,

LOUISIANA BOARD OF ETHICS

Charles E. Reeves, Jr.
For the Board

DISCLAIMER
This is a draft opinion and it is **NOT** an opinion of the Louisiana Board of Ethics. The analysis and conclusions herein are provided for discussion purposes only. No party may rely on the facts or conclusions. The analysis and conclusions herein are subject to change or revision at the meeting of the Board of Ethics at which this matter is considered.